No instructions were given to other Export Promotion Councils. However, in February, 1993 a suggestion was given to all the Export promotion Councils (excluding FIEO) to uniformally fix the tenure of their Chairmen for a period of two years.

The present President of FIEO, Shri P.K. Shah, has been appointed w.e.f. 6.6.95 and his date of retirement will be governed by the date of AGM, after completion of his tenure of two years.

(b) The retirement dates of the president, FIEO/Chairmen of EPCs are governed by the provisions of the Articles of Association of the respective EPCs including FIEO.

Top Exporters among Indian Private Sector Companies

58. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of top 50 exporters among Indian private sector companies indicating the value of exports made by each one of them during the first six months of 1995 till date;

(b) the value of imports made by each of these companies during the first six months of 1995 till date; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and the concerned institutions during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Based on the information available with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations a Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix 174, Annexure No. 3] Government do not maintain information about imports and exports made by private sector companies.

(c) A number of steps have been taken by Govt. for facilitating and promoting exports. These include specific schemes for encouraging exports by allowing duty free/concessional duty imports of raw material and capital goods, setting up of National Centre for Trade Information at New Delhi and strengthening infrastructure with reference to inland container depots, container freight stations. Export performance covering major commodities and countries is being continuously reviewed to identify new markets and opportunities.

दालों की खपत और आपूर्ति की स्थिति

59. श्री दिग्विजय सिंह:
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:

क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इस समय देश में दालों की खपत और आपूर्ति की स्थिति क्या है और इनमें कितना अन्तर है, तथा गत दो वर्षों के दौरान यह अन्तर कितना-कितना रहा है;

(ख) क्या उपभोक्ताओं को दालों की सहज और उचित मूल्यों पर उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा कोई कार्यक्रम तैयार किया गया है, अथवा किये जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह): (क) योजना आयोग की आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के लिए कार्य-दल द्वारा लगाए गए मांग के अनुमान के अनुसार 1994-95 में दालों की आवश्यकता लगभग 194.8 लाख मी॰ टन आंकी गई है। 1994-95 के लिए अनुमानित उत्पादन 145 लाख मी॰ टन है। 1994-95 के लिए दालों का आयात 5.5 लाख मी॰ टन है। तदनुसार मांग और आपूर्ति के बीच मौजूदा अन्तर लगभग 45 लाख मी॰ टन है।

(ख) और (ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्य स्तरों को सामान्य तौर पर और दालों के मूल्य

कारों को विशेषतौर पर नियंत्रित करने के कार्य को बहुत महत्व देती है। सरकार ने उपभोक्ताओं को उचित मूल्यों पर दालों की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अनेक कदम उठाए हैं:-

(क) दालों के आयात को खुले सामान्य लाइसेंस के तहत लाया गया है।

(ख) दालों के आयात पर सीमा शुल्क को 10% से घटा कर 5% कर दिया गया है।

(ग) देशीय बाजार में आयातित दालों की प्रभावी उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए, दालें, खाने योग्य तिलहन, खाने योग्य तेल (भंडारण नियंत्रण) आदेश, 1977 में उल्लिखित स्टाक सीमाओं को आयातित दालों के लिए हटा दिया गया है।

(घ) देश के सभी भागों में दालों के थोक तथा खुदरा मूल्यों के उतार-चढ़ाव पर निरन्तर नजर रखी जा रही है, ताकि सरकार दालों की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उपयुक्त उपाय कर सके।

Steps to Ensure Supply of Essential Commodities

60. SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh steps for the proper supply of certain essential commodities which are in limited stock or are not easily available; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of six selected essential commodities, namely, rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, imported edible oil and soft/ CIL coke to States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS). The Central Government reviews the progress of implementation of PDS regularly with States/UTs in various fora to improve the functioning. At present, there is a gap between the demand and supply of essential commodities like edible oils and pulses. The import of both these commodities has been placed under Open General Licence and their import duties have also been reduced significantly. The stock limits of these imported commodities have been removed from the purview of the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977. The commodities which are found to be in short supply at a particular point of time due to a supply-demand imbalance, are also imported in the most desired quantities to augment their supplies in the local markets.

There is not likely to be any shortage of sugar this year as the production of sugar within the country is likely to exceed 143 lakh metric tonnes.

Apprentices Act, 1961

61. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any roposal under Government's consideration to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961 to simplify procedures for drawing up contracts and bringing flexibility in the training programmes and trades selected by the employers;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether the present system imposes heavy financial burden on both, Central and State Governments for providing basic training centres as well as sharing of other costs relating to payment of stipend, etc.;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what steps Government propose to taken in the matter?